GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:239
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
RECOVERY OF OUTSTANDING DUES BY RAILWAYS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards/Power houses have increased despite a decision taken in October, 1996 that railways would transport coal only on pre-payment of freight and realize the outstanding dues from the Central Plan assistance to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the total amount of outstanding dues as on date and how do the same compare with the preceding five years;

(c) the reasons for violating the decisions to transport coal on pre-payment and not recovering the outstanding dues; and

(d) the action the Government proposes to take in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 239 BY SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16.12.2004 REGARDING RECOVERY OF OUTSTANDING DUES BY RAILWAYS.

(a) Yes, Sir. The total outstanding dues recoverable by Railways from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses as on 30.09.1996 were Rs.1126 crore which have increased to Rs.1762 crore as on 30.09.2004 (Appendix (I)). The decision of October 1996 was not applicable to State Electricity Boards/Power Houses who had adopted the scheme of advance payment of freight. The increase is mainly in the cases of Badarpur Thermal Power Station, Delhi Vidyut Board, Punjab State Electricity Board, Rajasthan State Electricity Board and Gujarat State Electricity Board. The reasons for increase are detailed in Appendix (II).

(b) The total amount of outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards/Power Houses as on date (up to 30.09.2004) are Rs.1762 crore. The comparative position of outstanding dues for the preceding five years to end of September and March is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Position as on 30th September	Position as on 31st March
1999-2000	1446	1306
2000-01	1761	1661
2001-02	1901	1616
2002-03	2145	1754
2003-04	1910	1633
2004-05	1762	#

Note

The position for the period ending March 2005 will be compiled after closing of March Account.

(c) Decision to transport coal on pre-payment was taken but could not be enforced in some of the cases due to difficult financial position of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses, non-deposit of adequate amount under advance payment of freight scheme resulting in levy of surcharge giving rise to disputes in some of the cases.

Outstanding dues of Rs.159 crore were recovered during the period 1997 to 2002 from Central Plan Assistance payable to State Governments.

(d) The matter is being pursued regularly with the concerned State Electricity Boards/Power Houses.

APPENDIX(I) REFFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 239 BY SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16.12.2004 REGARDING RECOVERY OF OUTSTANDING DUES BY RAILWAYS.

Break-up of outstanding dues as on 30.09.1996 as compared to the position upto 31.3.2004 and 30.9.2004.

(Rs.in Crore)

S.No.	Name of State Electricity Board/P.H.	30.09.1996	31.03.2004	30.09.2004 (Provisional)
1	A.P.State Electricity Board	29.97	0.00	9.75
2	Assam State Electricity Board	6.91	0.00	0.00
3	Bihar State Electricity Board	3.94	0.95	1.59
4	Delhi Vidyut Board	86.31	183.76	183.97
5	Gujarat State Electricity Board	10.86	0.45	36.34
6	Haryana State Electricity Board	71.00	1.75	12.83
7	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	-	0.44	1.48
8	Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.07	0.03	0.54
9	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	31.35	0.54	16.22
10	M.P.State Electricity Board	4.14	2.94	1.71
11	Punjab State Electricity Board	37.97	440.11	439.82
12	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	1.19	58.29	69.85
13	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	1.29	0.50	1.69
14	U.P.State Electricity Board	47.58	60.69	46.99
15	W.B.State Electricity Board	29.28	1.12	14.87
16	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	711.12	866.40	865.04
17	National Thermal Power Corporation	50.85	8.82	49.02
18	Damodar Valley Corporation	-	6.42	8.69
19	Private Power House- Sabarmati	2.54	0.21	1.18
	Total	1126.37	1633.42	1761.58

SEB/PH was not there on the list of Railways.

APPENDIX(II) REFFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 239 BY SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16.12.2004 REGARDING RECOVERY OF OUTSTANDING DUES BY RAILWAYS.

The reasons for increase and further action.

(i) Badarpur Thermal Power Station:

The outstanding dues from Badarpur Thermal Power Station have increased from Rs.711 crore at the end of September 1996 to Rs.865 crore till date (up to September 2004).

Even after the introduction of Advance Payment of freight scheme w.e.f 1.1.97, the outstanding increased to Rs. 966 crores to end of 1999-2000, mainly due to their inability to maintain the required deposit.

Constant chasing and meetings with Ministry of Power have resulted in payment of Rs.111 crores from Badarpur Thermal Power Station during 2003-04 and a time bound program for clearance of remaining old outstanding dues of Rs.857 crore pertaining to Badarpur Thermal Power Station by November 2009 has also been received. In order to arrest further accretion in the outstanding dues and to expedite realization of railway freight earning, facility of electronic payment gateway at the convenience of State Electricity Boards is being introduced.

(ii) Delhi Vidyut Board:

After constitution of Indraprastha Power Generation Company (GENCO), Delhi Vidyut Board have started booking of coal rakes on pre-payment at booking points w.e.f. 22-1-2004. This has helped to check the rising trend to some extent. In order to over come the

problem of old outstanding dues, very recently Delhi Vidyut Board has agreed to reconcile the outstandings with Railways. Accordingly, Northern Railway has been instructed to reconcile the outstanding dues with Delhi Vidyut Board.

(iii) Punjab State Electricity Board:

Outstanding dues against Punjab State Electricity Board have risen to Rs.440 crore up to September 2004 due to accrual of `To-Pay` surcharge for not maintaining adequate security deposit with the Railways as per terms of Advance Payment Scheme. Outstanding dues of Punjab State Electricity Board have been disputed by them and Civil Writ Petition is pending in Hon`ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh. The case is subjudice. However, Punjab State Electricity Board has switched over to pre-payment at the loading point since 14-5-2003.

(iv) Rajasthan State Electricity Board:

Under the Advance Payment Scheme, they have not been able to maintain the requisite deposit with the railways and are disputing the outstanding which are mainly due to the levy of `To Pay` surcharge. The issue of switching over to pre-payment scheme is being pursued with Rajasthan State Electricity Board authorities.

(v) Gujarat State Electricity Board:

The increase in outstanding dues as on September 2004 is only temporary and is likely to be cleared by March 2005.